

ABSTRACT

Described are techniques in connection with restricting access to devices within a computer system. Access to a device may be restricted to one or more particular hosts within the computer system, and also further restricted to a particular software program executing within the particular hosts. The restricted access device (RAD) may be recognized by one or more hosts only having access to specific portions of the RAD unless special RAD I/O opcodes are used in connection with performing I/O operations. Access to a device may be obtained by enabling a particular use of the special RAD I/O opcodes. Subsequently, access to the same device may be disabled by stopping use of the special RAD I/O opcodes by a particular host and/or software executing in the host. RADs may be used in a variety of applications including, for example, restricting access to shared logs or journals and protecting a database.